

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A recliner mechanism for use with a vehicle seat, comprising:

said seat including a seat bottom and a pivotally secured seat back;

a release mechanism operably engaged to said seat back and including an actuating handle extending from said seat bottom;

a plate secured to said seat back at a first location and pivotable along with said seat back about an axis defined at a second location, an arcuate exterior surface defined by said plate further exhibiting a recessed detent location;

a floor release lever secured to said seat bottom proximate said plate, said floor release lever being pivotally associated with said release mechanism and including a cable extending to a floor latch mechanism associated with the vehicle;

a ~~male-detent~~ cam pivotally secured to said seat bottom in inter-disposed fashion between said floor release lever and said plate;

wherein, upon said release mechanism rotating said floor release lever and said cable to cause said seat bottom to disengage from said floor latch mechanism, said ~~male-detent~~ cam being influenced by said release lever in a first direction to seat against said recessed detent location of said plate and to prevent a forwardly pivoted seat back from being rotated in a reverse direction; and

wherein, upon said seat bottom being rotated back into engagement with said floor latch mechanism, said ~~male-detent~~ cam being influenced by said release lever in a second direction to permit said seat back to be pivoted in said reverse direction.

2. (Currently Amended) The recliner mechanism as described in claim 1, said seat bottom further comprising an outer plate and an inner plate sandwiching therebetween said seat back and said release mechanism, said plate, floor release lever and ~~male-detent~~ cam being positioned upon an outer facing surface of said inner plate.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently Amended) The recliner mechanism as described in claim ~~[[3]]~~ 14, said release mechanism further comprising:

a spline rotatably secured in spring-loaded fashion between said inner and outer plates, said handle securing to a projecting end of said spline;

an arcuate shaped lever extending from said rotatable spline, said lever terminating in a remote end within which is defined a slot aperture;

a recliner pawl influenced by a pivotally associated and co-acting cam recliner, said pawl being operatively engaged to said seat back in a first position and disengaged from said seat back in a second position; and

said secondary release lever being fixedly secured to said rotatable cam recliner at a first end location, said secondary release lever being slidably secured to said slot aperture in said arcuate shaped lever.

5. (Original) The recliner mechanism as described in claim 4, said seat back further comprising a first plurality of serrated teeth extending from a bottom arcuate surface thereof,

said recliner pawl comprising a second plurality of teeth which, upon being influenced against said seat back, interengage with selected teeth associated with said first plurality of teeth.

6. (Original) The recliner mechanism as described in claim 4, further comprising a main clock spring secured to an exterior facing surface of said outer plate, said main spring influencing a main pivot pin, in turn extending between said inner and outer plates and to which said seat pack is secured, in said forwardly pivoting direction.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Original) The recliner mechanism as described in claim 4, further comprising a cam pivot pin to which is pivotally secured said cam recliner, said floor release lever being rotatably secured to an end of said cam pivot pin projecting through said inner plate.

9. (Currently Amended) The recliner mechanism as described in claim 4, further comprising a rivet to which are pivotally secured said recliner pawl and said ~~male detent~~ cam.

10. (Currently Amended) The recliner mechanism as described in claim ~~[[3]]~~ 14, said tabs associated with said floor release lever and said secondary release lever extending in interengaging fashion within a recess configured rear surface associated with said inner plate.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Canceled)

13. (Currently Amended) A recliner mechanism for use with a vehicle seat, comprising:

said seat including a seat bottom having an outer plate and an inner plate, a pivotally secured seat back sandwiched between said outer and inner plates and operated by a release mechanism engaged to said seat back and including an actuating handle extending from said seat bottom;

an arcuately curved exterior surface associated with said seat back exhibiting a recessed detent location;

a spring-biased and floor release lever secured to said seat bottom proximate said plate, said floor release lever being pivotally associated with said release mechanism and including a cable extending to a floor latch mechanism associated with the vehicle;

a ~~male-detent~~ cam pivotally secured to said seat bottom in inter-disposed fashion between said floor release lever and said plate;

wherein, upon said release mechanism rotating said floor release lever and said cable to cause said seat bottom to disengage from said floor latch mechanism, said ~~male-detent~~ cam being influenced by said release lever in a first direction to seat against said recessed detent location of said plate and to prevent a forwardly pivoted seat back from being rotated in a reverse direction; and

wherein, upon said seat bottom being rotated back into engagement with said floor latch mechanism, said ~~male-detent~~ cam being influenced by said release lever in a second direction to permit said seat back to be pivoted in said reverse direction.

14. (New) A recliner mechanism for use with a vehicle seat, comprising:
 - said seat including a seat bottom and a pivotally secured seat back;
 - a release mechanism operably engaged to said seat back and including an actuating handle extending from said seat bottom, said release mechanism further comprising a secondary release lever pivotally associated with said handle;
 - said seat bottom further comprising an outer plate and an inner plate sandwiching therebetween said seat back and said release mechanism;
 - a plate secured to said seat back at a first location and pivotable along with said seat back about an axis defined at a second location, an arcuate exterior surface defined by said plate further exhibiting a recessed detent location;
 - a floor release lever secured to said seat bottom proximate said plate, said floor release lever being pivotally associated with said release mechanism and including a cable extending to a floor latch mechanism associated with the vehicle;
 - said floor release lever and said secondary release lever each exhibiting an interengaging tab such that said secondary release lever influences said floor release lever in selective first and second directions;
 - a cam pivotally secured to said seat bottom in inter-disposed fashion between said floor release lever and said plate;
 - said plate, floor release lever and cam being positioned upon an outer facing surface of said inner plate;
 - wherein, upon said release mechanism rotating said floor release lever and said cable to cause said seat bottom to disengage from said floor latch mechanism, said cam being influenced

by said release lever in a first direction to seat against said recessed detent location of said plate and to prevent a forwardly pivoted seat back from being rotated in a reverse direction; and

wherein, upon said seat bottom being rotated back into engagement with said floor latch mechanism, said cam being influenced by said release lever in a second direction to permit said seat back to be pivoted in said reverse direction.

15. (New) A recliner mechanism for use with a vehicle seat, comprising:

said seat including a seat bottom and a pivotally secured seat back;

a release mechanism operably engaged to said seat back and including an actuating handle extending from said seat bottom;

said seat bottom further comprising an outer plate and an inner plate sandwiching therebetween said seat back and said release mechanism, a bracket secured to an exteriorly facing surface of said inner plate;

a plate secured to said seat back at a first location and pivotable along with said seat back about an axis defined at a second location, an arcuate exterior surface defined by said plate further exhibiting a recessed detent location;

a floor release lever secured to said seat bottom proximate said plate, said floor release lever being pivotally associated with said release mechanism and including a cable extending to a floor latch mechanism associated with the vehicle, said bracket supporting said cable extending between said floor release lever and said floor latch mechanism;

a cam pivotally secured to said seat bottom in inter-disposed fashion between said floor release lever and said plate;

said plate, floor release lever and cam being positioned upon an outer facing surface of said inner plate;

wherein, upon said release mechanism rotating said floor release lever and said cable to cause said seat bottom to disengage from said floor latch mechanism, said cam being influenced by said release lever in a first direction to seat against said recessed detent location of said plate and to prevent a forwardly pivoted seat back from being rotated in a reverse direction; and

wherein, upon said seat bottom being rotated back into engagement with said floor latch mechanism, said cam being influenced by said release lever in a second direction to permit said seat back to be pivoted in said reverse direction.

16. (New) A recliner mechanism for use with a vehicle seat, comprising:

said seat including a seat bottom and a pivotally secured seat back;

a release mechanism operably engaged to said seat back and including an actuating handle extending from said seat bottom;

a plate secured to said seat back at a first location and pivotable along with said seat back about an axis defined at a second location, an arcuate exterior surface defined by said plate further exhibiting a recessed detent location;

a floor release lever secured to said seat bottom proximate said plate, said floor release lever being pivotally associated with said release mechanism and including a cable extending to a floor latch mechanism associated with the vehicle;

a cam pivotally secured to said seat bottom in inter-disposed fashion between said floor release lever and said plate;

an extension spring extending between said floor release lever and said cam;

wherein, upon said release mechanism rotating said floor release lever and said cable to cause said seat bottom to disengage from said floor latch mechanism, said cam being influenced by said release lever in a first direction to seat against said recessed detent location of said plate and to prevent a forwardly pivoted seat back from being rotated in a reverse direction; and

wherein, upon said seat bottom being rotated back into engagement with said floor latch mechanism, said cam being influenced by said release lever in a second direction to permit said seat back to be pivoted in said reverse direction.

17. (New) A recliner mechanism for use with a vehicle seat, comprising:

said seat including a seat bottom and a pivotally secured seat back;

a release mechanism operably engaged to said seat back and including an actuating handle extending from said seat bottom;

a plate secured to said seat back at a first location and pivotable along with said seat back about an axis defined at a second location, an arcuate exterior surface defined by said plate further exhibiting a recessed detent location;

a floor release lever secured to said seat bottom proximate said plate, said floor release lever being pivotally associated with said release mechanism and including a cable extending to a floor latch mechanism associated with the vehicle;

a cam pivotally secured to said seat bottom in inter-disposed fashion between said floor release lever and said plate;

wherein, upon said release mechanism rotating said floor release lever and said cable to cause said seat bottom to disengage from said floor latch mechanism, said floor release lever further comprising a recessed exterior location which abuttingly engages a corresponding

projecting edge location of said cam in said seat bottom disengaged position, said cam being influenced by said release lever in a first direction to seat against said recessed detent location of said plate and to prevent a forwardly pivoted seat back from being rotated in a reverse direction; and

wherein, upon said seat bottom being rotated back into engagement with said floor latch mechanism, said cam being influenced by said release lever in a second direction to permit said seat back to be pivoted in said reverse direction.